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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/775,019	02/01/2001	David Griffith	027-0001	7486

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EXAMINER

PASS, NATALIE

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3626

DATE MAILED: 03/02/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/775,019	Applicant(s) GRIFFITH, DAVID	
	Examiner Natalie A. Pass	Art Unit 3626	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 September 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 3-15 and 19-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 3-15 and 19-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>27 September 2005</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Notice to Applicant

1. This communication is in response to the amendment filed 27 September 2005. Claim 22 has been amended. Claims 1-2 and 16-18 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected invention. Claims 3-15, 19-24 remain pending. The Information Disclosure Statement filed 27 September 2005 has been entered and considered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 3-15, 19-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maury, U.S. Patent Application Publication Number 2002/0046064 for substantially the same reasons given in the previous Office Action (paper number 06212005). Further reasons appear hereinbelow.

Art Unit: 3626

(A) Claims 10-15, 3-9, 19-21 and 23-24 have not been amended and are rejected for the same reasons given in the previous Office Action (paper number 06212005, section 6, pages 3-10), and incorporated herein.

(B) The amendments to claim 22 appear to have been made merely to correct minor typographical or grammatical errors. While these changes render the language of the claims smoother and more consistent, they otherwise affect neither the scope and breadth of the claims as originally presented nor the manner in which the claims were interpreted by the Examiner when applying prior art within the previous Office Action.

As such, the recited claimed features are rejected for the same reasons given in the prior Office Action (paper number 06212005, section 6, page 10), and incorporated herein.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed 27 September 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant's arguments will be addressed hereinbelow in the order in which they appear in the response filed 27 September 2005.

(A) At page 9, paragraph 3 of the 27 September 2005 response, Applicant notes that Examiner has not supplied a copy of a provisional application. Examiner thanks Applicant for noting this and has included this application number in form PTO-892, submitted with the present Office Action.

(B) At pages 9-10 of the 27 September 2005 response, Applicant argues that the claim limitations in the Application are not taught or suggested by the applied reference. In response, all of the limitations which Applicant disputes are missing in the applied reference have been fully addressed by the Examiner as either being fully disclosed or obvious in view of the teachings of the cited reference, based on the logic and sound scientific reasoning of one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time of the invention, as detailed in the 35 USC § 103 rejections given in the preceding sections of the present Office Action and in the prior Office Action (paper number 06212005), and incorporated herein. In particular, Examiner notes that the limitations of “defining an actuary-manipulable representation of a rating model, the actuary-manipulable representation including variables, factor tables and calculation sequences of the rating model, the calculation sequences defined in terms of steps operative on values of the variables and cells of the factor tables,” are taught by the applied reference. Examiner interprets Maury’s teachings of “[t]he user data is submitted to a knowledge-based management system module and database, which determine a tier corresponding to the user data and return the tier to the rating engine server. The rating engine server returns the requested quote to the presentation server, which displays the quote for the user” (Maury; paragraph [0011])” and “rating engine server 48 provides a rating system which allows a front-end provider to utilize Applicative Real-Time Programming (ART) rating to calculate premiums” (Maury; paragraph [0032]), together with Applicant’s teachings at paragraph 2 on page 1 of Applicant’s Specification, (e.g. “[w]hen taken together, the calculation sequence, the variables, and the factor tables (or tables of adjustments) make up a rating model. An insurance company will typically have a rating model for each line of insurance it offers”) as teaching these limitations.

With regard to Applicant's argument on lines 1-2 of page 10 of the 27 September 2005 response that "Maury is devoid of a description of the Maury rating engine and its functionality, Examiner respectfully disagrees. Maury's "invention [is] to provide a method and system for furnishing an on-line quote to a user for an insurance product, such as auto insurance, which enables the quote to be presented in real time, without the delay inherent, for example, with the use of email" (Maury; paragraph [0005]). Maury describes "[t]he user is allowed to enter a request for the quote on the presentation server, and the user data is formatted and transferred to a rating engine server via a Java module" (Maury; paragraph [0011]). Furthermore, Maury describes "FIG. 3 is a schematic diagram which illustrates an overview of key components and the flow of information between key components for an example of the rating engine utilized for the system for an embodiment of the present invention" (Maury; paragraph [0016]). Examiner interpret these teachings to include a description of the functionality of Maury's rating engine. In addition, Maury notes that "[t]he intended audience for the system of an embodiment of the present invention is the general public. In an aspect of the present invention, the audience for the [invention] includes various affinity groups" (Maury; paragraph [0027]); Examiner assumes that this broad audience can comprise business users such as actuaries.

In response to Applicant's argument that Examiner's rejection of claims 3-15 and 19-24 is based upon improper hindsight reasoning, it must be recognized that any judgment on obviousness is in a sense necessarily a reconstruction based upon hindsight reasoning. But so long as it takes into account only knowledge which was within the level of ordinary skill at the time the claimed invention was made, and does not include knowledge gleaned only from the

Art Unit: 3626

Applicant's disclosure, such a reconstruction is proper. See *In re McLaughlin*, 443 F.2d 1392, 170 USPQ 209 (CCPA 1971).

Conclusion

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

6. **Any response to this final action should be mailed to:**

Box AF

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington D.C. 20231

or faxed to: (571) 273-8300.

For formal communications, please mark

"EXPEDITED PROCEDURE".

For informal or draft communications, please

label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT" on the front page of

the communication and do NOT sign the

communication.

Art Unit: 3626

After Final communications should be labeled "Box AF."

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Natalie A. Pass whose telephone number is (571) 272-6774. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 9:00 AM to 6:30 PM. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

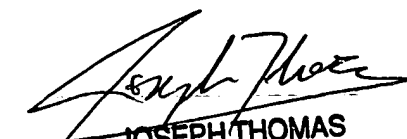
8. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Thomas, can be reached at (571) 272-6776. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-3600. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

9. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Natalie A. Pass

December 12, 2005



JOSEPH THOMAS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER